

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 6, 2007

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE CONSULTATIONS FOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL

WORKERS

The consistent and timely delivery of expert health care to abused and neglected children supports countywide improvements in safety, permanency and a reduced reliance on detention. There are currently 115 County Public Health Nurses (PHN) co-located throughout the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) regional offices to provide expert health-related consultation and case support services to Children's Social Workers. Of these PHNs, approximately 40 percent are employed by DCFS and 60 percent are employed by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The State's new Health Care Plan for Children in Foster Care, an augmentation to the existing Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, specifies PHN activities that are eligible for federal matching funds through the Medicaid Program. However, as a result of differences in DCFS' and DPH's respective strategies for funding PHN services, PHN service delivery is fragmented and confusing to Children's Social Workers. PHNs under DCFS employ provide consultations for all children under DCFS supervision. Yet PHNs under DPH employ provide consultations for only those children who are detained and placed outside of their family's home. To ensure improved outcomes for all of the County's most vulnerable children, immediate service integration is required through the seamless delivery of PHN consultation services to all Children's Social Workers, regardless of a child's placement status.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____

– MORE –

Public Health Nurse Consultations for Children's Social Workers
March 6, 2007
Page 2

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1) Identify available funding, including the Designation for Children and Family Services fund, to finance the cost of a six month time-study pilot program, in which four DCFS Regional offices will blend Public Health Nursing functions to allow the seamless delivery of PHN consultation services to all Children's Social Workers, regardless of a child's placement status;
- 2) Report back in 30 days on:
 - a) The identified funding source and funding necessary for the pilot, not to exceed \$100,000;
 - b) Information on how other counties fund and manage their PHN services, thus ensuring seamless service delivery regardless of a child's placement status;
 - c) Whether all of the PHNs in the pilot should be brought under DCFS management for the duration of the pilot;
 - d) A means of tracking the impact of the pilot on improved outcomes in safety, permanency and a reduced reliance on detention; and
 - e) Development and implementation of the pilot.
- 3) Report back every 90 days until the pilot is completed.
- 4) Include the funding necessary for the pilot in the proposed FY 2007-08 Budget.

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(MDA:HB Public Health Nurses)